



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

OCT 15 2002

Dr. Mervyn Baker, Director
Food of Animal Origin Division
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Nepean, Ontario K 1A0Y9
Canada

Dear Dr. Baker:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed an on-site audit of Canada's meat and poultry inspection system. The audit was conducted from June 11 - July 6, 2001. Enclosed is a copy of the final audit report. Canada's comments have been included as Attachment G.

FSIS appreciates your assurances and efforts to correct the deficiencies found during the 2001 audit. In addition, FSIS was grateful for the opportunity to discuss some of the specific issues related to this and previous audits via the three teleconferences in January and March of 2002. As a result of these teleconferences, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has sent pertinent information to FSIS regarding (1) pre-shipment reviews of Critical Control Point (CCP) monitoring results; (2) less than monthly supervisory visits; and (3) the analytical method used to test for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) 0157:H7. Through our discussions and the submission of these documents, CFIA has officially requested an equivalence decision regarding the above issues. FSIS appreciates your submission and will expedite a review of the documents as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the audit or this letter, or need additional information, please contact me at 202-720-3781. My fax number is 202-690-4040 and my email address is sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sally Stratmoen
Chief, Equivalence
International Policy Staff
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc:

John Masswohl, First Secretary, Agric., Embassy of Canada
Gary C. Groves, Minister-Counselor, FAS, U.S. Embassy, Ottawa
Linda Swacina, Associate Administrator, FSIS
Maritza Colon-Pullano, SAIFS, OPPDE
Robert Hoff, Area Officer, FAS
Amy Winton, State Department
Dave Young, FAS
Donald Smart, Director, Review Staff, FSIS
Karen Stuck, Director, IPS, FSIS
Sally Stratmoen, Chief, ES, IPS, FSIS
Richard F. Brown, ES, IPS
Country File (FY 2001 Audit)